of Railways for sanction of a Railway Junior College at Bitragunta. The demand was duly considered but was not found feasible of acceptance particularly when the Railway population at Bitragunta has come down due to closure of Steam Loco Shed.

Konkan Railway Projects

4011. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount likely to be spent on the on-going work on Konkan Railway Project alongwith the comparison between original and revised estimates;

(b) the reasons for delay in execution of work and escalation of cost;

(c) the time by which above project is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have revised its estimates keeping in view the profitability of the Konkan Railway;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of proposed train services through Konkan Railway;

(g) the details of amount contributed by the Government of Kerala for the construction of Konkan Railway;

(h) whether the Government have received complaints of serious irregularities in implementation of the above project; and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) It is expected that the amount of Rs. 3026 crore will be spent upto March 1997 as against the current project cost of Rs. 3100 crore Originally, the project was estimated to cost Rs. 1043 crore at 1989-90 price level.

(b) the main reasons for delay are acute shortage of funds and adverse geological conditions in softsoil tunnels in Goa and Karnataka area.

The reasons for escalation in cost are as follows :-

(i) Inflation due to passage of time.

(ii) Additional expenditure required due to increased scope of work in tunnels, protection works and implementation of recommendations of Oza Committee in Goa Sector of the project.

(iii) Adoption of current prevailing standards of construction as compared to original provision.

(iv) Additional financing costs due to delay in completion of the project.

(c) Construction of the project is likely to be completed by 30.06.97.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Revision of the estimates has been done keeping in view of the profitability of the Konkan Railway. The cash flow indicates that the project remains profitable even after this revision, mainly because the projected increase in quantum of traffic as well as fare increases as applicable to Indian Railways.

(f) Train services through Konkan Railway will be provided in phases in keeping with the improvement in infrastructural facilities including line capacity, terminal development works and availability of higher speeds. The train services proposed to be provided included :-

1. Passenger shuttles on Ratnagiri-Madgaon and Madgaon-Mangalore sectors.
2. Extension of Kurla-Sawantwadi Express upto Madgaon.
3. Diversion of 6635/6636 Kurla-Mangalore/ Cochin Netravati Express.
4. Diversion of 2431/2432 Nizamuddin Trivandrum Rajdhani Express.
5. Diversion of 2617/2618 NIzamuddin Mangalore Mangala Express with extension upto Ernakulam.

After completion of line capacity works on Diva-Panvel and other adjoining sections, it is proposed to divert 6335/6336 Gandhidham-Nagercoil (weekly), 6337/6338 Rajkot-Cochin (weekly) and 6333/6334 Rajkot-Trivandrum (weekly) Express.

(g) The Government of Kerala has fully contributed the equity contribution of Rs. 36 crore.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

Post Offices in Bihar

4012. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices opened and proposed to be opened in Bihar, particularly in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts alongwith their locations during the last three years; and

(b) the amount earmarked therefor during 1994-95, 1995-96 and for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 900 EDBOs and 6 DSOs have been opened so far in Bihar during 1993-94, 1994-95

and 1995-96. The number of Post offices opened particularly in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts alongwith their locations during the last three years are as under :

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Giridih	EDBO 1 at Ratanbahiar	nil	nil
Kodarma	nil	nil	nil
Hazaribagh	1 at Hesla	nil	nil

(b) The amount earmarked for Bihar Circle is as under :

1994-95	1995-96 (rupees in Lakhs)	1996-97
28.00	60.70	71.34

[Translation]

Railway Protection Force

4013. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any committee has been constituted to look into functions and other problems related to Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of recommendations made by the said committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No such Committee to look into the functions and other problems of Railway Protection Force has been constituted recently. However, in July, 1994, the Ministry of Railways had set up a Committee consisting of one serving and four Retired Officers of the Railway Protection Force to look into the Organisational and functional problems of the RPF. The tenure of the Committee was for a period of 6 months. However, the Committee did not give any report till its term expired.

Construction of Overbridges

4014. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to construct overbridges at Ratlam, Javra, Mandsaur and Nimach on Ratlam-Ajmer section of Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to construct overbridges at the said places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Road over bridge at Ratlam in lieu of Level Crossing No. 82 already constructed in 1994. At Javra Road in lieu of Level Crossing No. 192-A it was sanctioned in 1986-87 but State Government could not start work on approaches hence frozen. Another Road over bridge at Javra station in lieu of level crossing No. 177 qualifies for replacement on cost sharing basis but State Government has not sponsored proposal required under extant rules. Level Crossings at Mandsour and Neemach are having low traffic density hence do not qualify for replacement with over/under bridges on cost sharing basis.

[English]

Modern Goods Shed at Dhankuni

4015. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to build up modern goods shed at Dhankuni;

(b) if so, the progress of such shed;

(c) whether any target has been fixed to complete this project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Dankuni is already functioning as a freight terminal. The sactioned work for its expansion/development as a Nodal terminal is under execution and is likely to be completed by 31.12.98.

J.P.C. Report

4016. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 241 on July 11, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the CBI has since submitted its final report in this case;

(b) if so, the details of the findings and the follow-up action taken by his Ministry thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) As per information received from the CBI, field investigation has been completed and